

REMARKS

The RCE Transmittal submitted concurrently herewith, in connection with the above-identified application, is noted. In this RCE Transmittal, it is requested that the Amendment filed December 2, 2002 in the above-identified application, refused entry in the Advisory Action mailed December 17, 2002 in the above-identified application, be entered. Such request for entry of this previously submitted Amendment filed December 2, 2002, is renewed herein.

In addition, by the present Supplementing Submission Applicants are adding new claims 21-23 to the application. Claims 21 and 22, dependent respectively on claims 15 and 14, recite that the thickened part has a width that is substantially equal to a width of the extruded part. Claim 23, also dependent on claim 14, recites that a specified side surface of the extruded part and a specified side surface of the thickened part extend obliquely. Note, for example, the first full paragraph on page 24 of Applicants' specification.

With respect to the claims presently in the application, Applicants respectfully rely on arguments on pages 7-12 of the Amendment After Final Rejection filed December 2, 2002. In addition, Applicants respectfully direct attention to newly added claims 21-23, corresponding, inter alia, to the extruded frame member shown in, for example, Fig. 18 and the description in connection therewith on pages 23 and 24 of Applicants' specification. Note also the description in connection with Fig. 17, in the paragraph bridging pages 22 and 23 of Applicants' specification, particularly together with the sole full paragraph on page 23 of Applicants' specification. It is respectfully submitted that, clearly, Applicants' original disclosure defines the width direction and the extruded direction, as well as the width and length, such that the claims are not vague and indefinite, and such that the claims are clearly supported with an enabling description in the specification, as required under the first

paragraph of 35 USC § 112.

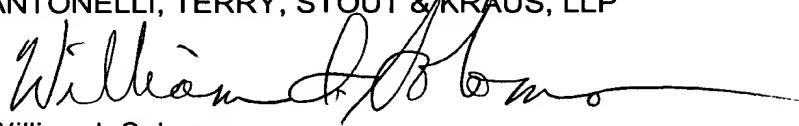
Applicants maintain their position that the U.S. patent applied as prior art in rejecting claims in the Office Action mailed August 2, 2002, does not constitute prior art in connection with the presently claimed subject matter. That is, U.S. Patent No. 6,354,483 to Ezumi, et al. has a date, for prior art purposes under 35 USC §102(e), of August 23, 2000, which is after the effective filing date of the above-identified application, February 17, 1998, which is claimed herein under 35 USC § 120. Reconsideration and withdrawal of U.S. Patent No. 6,354,483 as prior art in connection with the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

In view of all of the foregoing, and particularly in view of the concurrently filed RCE Transmittal, entry of the present amendments and of the amendments in the Amendment After Final Rejection filed December 2, 2002, and reconsideration and allowance of all claims presently in the application, are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.35933VV5) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

  
William I. Solomon  
Registration No. 28,565

1300 North Seventeenth Street  
Suite 1800  
Arlington, VA 22209  
Tel.: 703-312-6600  
Fax.: 703-312-6666

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